

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for routing a communication directed to a directory number, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number to direct the communication away from the directory number to at least one other directory number whenever the directory number to which the communication was directed is inoperative, the system comprising:

a switch configured to receive the communication in a switched telephone network, wherein the communication is directed to the directory number having the directory service, and wherein the switch is configured to detect the inoperative directory number associated with the communication; and

a service control point, in communication with the switch, wherein the switch is configured to provide the directory number to the service control point, and wherein the service control point includes a database of subscriber information maintained by the network, and wherein the service control point is configured to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the inoperative directory number, and wherein the service control point is configured to instruct the switch to redirect the communication away from the directory number to at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the switch is configured to detect an inoperative directory number by testing for a cable fault.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the switch is configured to test for the cable fault in a feeder cable.

4. The system of claim 3, wherein the database of subscriber information includes one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the switch is configured to resume directing the communication to the directory number to which the communication was directed when no fault is detected.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the switch routes the communication to the directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

7. The system of claim 6, further comprising:  
a service management system, in communication with the service control point, for downloading subscriber information to the database.

8. A method for routing a communication directed to a directory number, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number to direct the communication away from the directory number to at least one other directory number whenever the directory number to which the communication was directed is inoperative, the method comprising:

configuring a switch to receive the communication in a switched telephone network,  
wherein the communication is directed to the directory number having the directory service;  
configuring the switch to detect the inoperative directory number associated with the  
communication;  
connecting a service control point to the switch;  
configuring the switch to provide the directory number to the service control point;  
maintaining a database of subscriber information;  
configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for  
a matching entry to the inoperative directory number; and  
configuring the service control point to instruct the switch to redirect the communication  
away from the directory number to at least one other directory number upon finding the  
matching entry.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein configuring the switch to detect the inoperative  
directory includes:

testing for a cable fault.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein configuring the switch to detect the inoperative  
directory includes:

testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

directing the communication to the directory number to which the communication was directed when no fault is detected.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

routing the communication to the directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein maintaining the database includes:

downloading subscriber information to the database.

15. A system for routing a communication directed to a directory number, wherein a redirection service is operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number to direct the communication away from the directory number to at least one other directory number whenever the directory number to which the communication was directed is inoperative, the method comprising:

means for configuring a switch to receive the communication in a switched telephone network, wherein the communication is directed to the directory number having the directory service;

means for configuring the switch to detect the inoperative directory number associated with the communication;

means for connecting a service control point to the switch;

means for configuring the switch to provide the directory number to the service control point;

means for maintaining a database of subscriber information;

means for configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the inoperative directory number; and

means for configuring the service control point to instruct the switch to redirect the communication away from the directory number to at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein configuring the switch to detect the inoperative directory includes:

means for testing for a cable fault.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein configuring the switch to detect the inoperative directory includes:

means for testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

19. The system of claim 18, further comprising:

means for directing the communication to the directory number to which the communication was directed when no fault is detected.

20. The system of claim 19, further comprising:

means for routing the communication to the directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein maintaining the database includes:

means for downloading subscriber information to the database.

22. A computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of:

configuring a switch to receive a communication in a switched telephone network, wherein the communication is directed to a directory number having a directory service, wherein the directory service is a redirection service that is operative with respect to the communication directed to the directory number and directs the communication away from the directory number to at least one other directory number whenever the directory number to which the communication was directed is inoperative;

configuring the switch to detect an inoperative directory number associated with the communication;

connecting a service control point to the switch;

configuring the switch to provide the directory number to the service control point;

maintaining a database of subscriber information at the service control point;

configuring the service control point to search the database of subscriber information for a matching entry to the inoperable directory number; and

configuring the service control point to instruct the switch to redirect the communication away from the directory number to at least one other directory number upon finding the matching entry.

23. The medium of claim 22, wherein configuring the switch to detect the inoperative directory includes:

testing for a cable fault.

24. The medium of claim 23, wherein configuring the switch to detect the inoperative directory includes:

testing for cable fault in a feeder cable.

25. The medium of claim 24, wherein maintaining a database includes:

maintaining one or more alternate directory numbers pursuant to a preselected redirection scheme.

26. The medium of claim 25, further comprising:

directing the communication to the directory number to which the communication was directed when no fault is detected.

27. The medium of claim 26, further comprising:

routing the communication to the directory number to which the communication was directed when no corresponding entry is found in the database.

28. The medium of claim 27, wherein maintaining the database includes:

downloading subscriber information to the database.